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**Environmental Influences On The Biofouling Biomass In Open Sea Cage Culture Site**

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This study was conducted to assess the biomass of biofoulers in cage farming site and the reference site using experimental net panels, at marine cage farm, off Karwar, Karnataka. Biomass of macrofoulers at three depths in mariculture site were studied and the biomass assessed were compared with that of the reference site, with special reference to the environmental parameters existing in these waters. The qualitative and quantitative measures of biofoulers taken every month from the experimental net panels from December 2014 to November 2015 for three depths i.e. 1meter, 3meter and 6meter in the cage site and from reference site. The environmental parameters, Temperature, Salinity, Dissolved Oxygen pH Ammonia Nitrite and Phosphate were recorded fortnightly from both the sites. The statistical multivariate analysis were carried out to compare the biomass of biofoulers between the two sites and between the depths. The biomass of the communities showed significant difference between the depths of two sites. Biomass was higher in the cage site, when compared to the reference site. Heavy fouling of green mussels was observed in cage culture site, where higher level of nutrients were available in the form of fish-feed. The results of the study will help in designing new integrated farming technologies and to also will help in revising net maintenance protocols, thereby increasing the feasibility of open sea cage farming operations.